

Serial No. 10/087,301

Docket No.: 56912US002

Amendments to the Specification

Amend paragraph 0026 as shown below in marked form:

[0026] **Fig. 3** shows a perspective view of a coating device 30 that can be used to apply a substantially uneven coating to strand 10 and improve the uniformity of the applied coating so that low spots, voids and high spots are eliminated. Device 30 includes roll 26 of **Fig. 2** and a second roll 32 whose diameter for the embodiment shown in **Fig. 3** is approximately twice that of roll 26. If desired, roll 32 can have a larger, equal or smaller diameter in comparison to the diameter of roll 26. For the device setup shown in **Fig. 3**, strand 10 passes through grooves 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48 located alternately on rolls 26 and 32, with the remaining grooves in rolls 26 and 32 being unused. The path is chosen so that the wet coated strand will come into physical contact with at least two rotating coating-wetted roll surfaces during operation of device 30. Coating liquid 12 is applied dropwise from dispenser 50 into groove 34 or onto strand 10 at a rate sufficient to produce a substantially uneven coating on strand 10. The applicator in effect applies the coating as a series of interrupted patches (which in the interest of brevity can be referred to as "stripes") into groove 34 or onto strand 10. Preferably the coating liquid is supplied at a metered or adjusted rate so that the average deposition rate per unit length of strand is controlled or otherwise regulated. Although in **Fig. 3** coating liquid 12 is shown as being applied near the point at which strand 10 first reaches roll 26, coating liquid 12 can be applied to the groove 34 or the strand 10 at any other convenient upstream (or "up wire strand") location before strand 10 reaches roll 26, or at any other convenient downstream (or "down strand") location after strand 10 first contacts roll 26.